

Drew Child Development Corporation

Making a Difference in the Watts/ Willowbrook, South Los Angeles area 2004-2005



The following are two success stories from our Outpatient Community Mental Health Program:

L.W. is an 18 year old African American male who was in treatment here at our facility for approximately six months due to feelings of sadness and problems with communication related to a history of multiple foster home placements. L.W. was separated from his biological mother in infancy due to her substance abuse. During the course of L.W.'s therapy here at Drew CDC, his therapist assisted him with building his self-confidence and diminishing his feelings of low self-worth and sadness related to the physical abuse he suffered in one of his previous foster homes. L.W.'s therapist assisted him in working through his depressed feelings and feeling more positive about himself and his future. L.W.'s desire was to become an emancipated minor and attend college some day. Armed with a newly developed positive sense of self and a desire to achieve and be the best he could be, L.W. applied and got accepted to a major university in Northern California. L.W. is now a full time college student working on his undergraduate degree.

D.E.T. and D.T. are two African American brothers ages 12 and 10. These brothers received psychotherapeutic counseling services at Drew CDC for approximately 18 months. D.E.T. and D.T. had been in multiple foster homes due to biological mother's history of mental illness and inability to care for them. The therapist assigned to their cases assisted the brothers in diminishing their feelings of sadness, anger and abandonment. The brothers' one desire was to be reunited and adopted by their grandmother. During their course of treatment here at Drew CDC, the therapist assisted the boys in learning positive ways to deal with their life circumstances through effective coping strategies. Once the boys were reunited with their biological grandmother, the therapist was able to facilitate successful family therapy interventions to assist the brothers and their grandmother with the emotional difficulties that arose from the transition from one home to another. Both brothers successfully accomplished all of their treatment goals developed by their therapist, and upon termination of their cases here at Drew CDC, were in the process of being adopted by their grandmother.

The following story is from our Early Childhood Education:

"My name is Nancy Ramirez, I am a full time employee. My son Andrew Torres who is a 4 year old is attending Drew Child Development Center in the 92nd and Maie Child Care Center as of February 2, 2003. I have seen his progress very rapidly since he started the day care. At 4 years old, he knows how to respect and get along with other children and adults very well. He is able to write and knows all his colors, numbers and has begun reading. I am very happy to see how much he has learned at the daycare."

Project Real Program:



What Teachers at Charles R. Drew Middle School had to say regarding the kids in our program...

"Academic Improvement as well as their knowledge regarding HIV/AIDS."

"This is the only HIV/AIDS Awareness program in a middle school in the South Los Angeles area."



"Success Stories" Continued

Family Preservation Program:

The "A" family consisted of five individuals (2 adults & 3 children) who had recently arrived in the United States from Northern Iraq. Because of the language barrier and lack of job skills, the parents had a difficult time finding full-time employment. The father worked odd jobs to earn money to meet the family's needs. The lack of financial resources was re was a factor in causing stress and family conflict. When the Family Preservation program began working with the "A" family, they were living in a small trailer, with one bedroom and minimal utilities. The parents were not aware of the financial assistance programs available to families in their situation. The Family Preservation in-home Counselor and T&D (Teaching & Demonstration) Worker assisted the family in completing the application needed to receive financial assistance and assisted them in completing a "Section 8" housing application. With the assistance of the Family Preservation program, the family was approved to receive financial assistance, which helped to decrease the stress that was placed on the parents to provide for the family. The family was then able to go out and do things together (i.e. going to the movies, going to restaurants, etc.), which helped to strengthen the family relationship and decrease family conflict. The financial assistance also helped the family to qualify for "Section 8" housing. The family was approved to move into a three-bedroom apartment, which was their first stable housing since moving to the United States. Before closing the case, the Family Preservation Program assisted the family with their move-in costs, beds and dressers for the children, and a stove and refrigerator.



Early Intervention Program: Parents Share their Gratitude

"I like that you help me to better understand how to raise a child with disabilities"

"Going through the program, I have learned to have patience...we have along road ahead of us but appreciate the program, it has taught us to take one day at a time with our child"

"I've learned that with a one on one teaching program, my daughter has strengthen her social and developmental skills"

"My daughter is learning more to pay attention to the particular item and is able to focus more due to In-Home Stimulation..."

"The interaction they have with my child, the enthusiasm they show when goals are met"

